



# G-5's "Eye on AMC"

## U.S. Army Materiel Command

*The Army's Premier Provider of Materiel Readiness*

March 25, 2005

### Secretary of the Army visits AMC

While visiting the AMC headquarters Tuesday, the Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey challenged AMC to look for benchmarks -- ways to compare its products and processes with industry to find the best ways to meet the needs of Soldiers.

"Since I've come from the other side, I'm a big believer in competition. This equipment is important to Soldiers -- let's get it out to them," said Harvey, speaking about his past experience in the corporate world.

Harvey's visit began with video teleconference briefings from AMC's major subordinate commands. Commanders mentioned ways they are using industry best practices to help save money, increase production and improve the quality of equipment for Soldiers. He was also briefed by Soldiers from AMC Forward --Southwest Asia on their mission and accomplishments.

Harvey visited the Research, Development and Engineering Command's Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate at Fort Belvoir to see demonstrations of some of the latest technologies AMC is developing to increase Soldier survivability.

### Injured officer receives Purple Heart

The Purple Heart was awarded March 18 to Maj. Luis Cotto-Arroyo, an acquisition liaison officer for AMC, after he was injured Jan. 29 in Iraq when a rocket hit the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on the eve of the Iraqi Elections.

"I have mixed emotions about (receiving the Purple Heart)," said Cotto.

"The Purple Heart is ... one of those things you don't want to receive -- but when you do get injured -- you're just happy to be alive. It definitely brings a new perspective to life."

Lt. Gen. Richard A. Hack, the deputy commanding general of AMC, presented Cotto the Purple Heart, as about 100 people gathered to honor Cotto and his contribution's during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Cotto said he was in a state of shock when the rocket fell into his office within the heavily guarded Green Zone, killing two of his co-workers. Cotto suffered broken bones in his left hand, a broken arm, shrapnel wounds to his left leg and temporary hearing loss for a few days.

"It's amazing how much power that rocket had," Cotto said. "The shrapnel just penetrated itself through my clothes and embedded into my body -- it was just stuck in there - depending on the size and content, it messes you up pretty bad."

### Pine Bluff Arsenal to begin disposal of chemical weapons

The Army announced March 22 that the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Facility will begin chemical weapons disposal operations March 29.

"We have confirmed the readiness of our plant, processes and people to begin safe and environmentally sound disposal operations," said Randy Long, site project manager. "Our plan is to start slowly, gradually increasing the rate of processing to ensure successful operations for the life cycle of the project."

Pine Bluff Arsenal has safely stored 3,850 tons of chemical agents, 12 percent of the Army's original chemical weapons stockpile, for more than 60 years. The inventory includes GB rockets, VX rockets, VX land mines and HD/HT bulk containers. GB and VX are nerve agents. HD/HT are mustard blister agents.

### 63rd Annual Army Emergency Relief campaign underway

Army Emergency Relief is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting Soldiers and their families when an emergency strikes. The AER also provides financial aide for undergraduate studies for dependent children. This annual "Soldiers helping Soldiers" fund-raising campaign is also open to civilians who wish to make a contribution. See your local campaign managers for more information.